terrestrial broadcasting and use of local studio and programming personnel?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Doordarshan programmes are already available all over the country in satellite mode, and can be received using appropriate dish antenna systems or through cable networks. Terrestrial relay of Doordarshan currently covers about 88.9% of the country's population. In order to spread the terrestrial coverage to more areas, including the remote and sparsely populated areas of the country, Doordarshan is currently setting up 185 transmitters. A number of factors, such as area/ population to be covered, costs involved, technological requirements, infrastructure facilities etc., are taken into consideration at the time of deciding upon the location and power of a transmitter. With the commissioning of projects presently under implementation, the population coverage is expected to go up to 91.3%.

(c) Doordarshan is taking full advantage of the terrestrial network for broadcasting. Local studios are also utilised to produce programmes. In the Regional Kendras, a large portion of allotted time is devoted to in-house programmes, which are produced with local participation.

Uniform National Building Code

*333. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in several towns and cities multi-storeyed apartments are built without following norms of proper structural designs and standard material;

(b) if so, whether does it not endanger public safety; and

(c) whether Government contemplate of enforcing Uniform National Building Code to ensure safety of structures?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) No survey has so far been made to assess whether the buildings have

been constructed as per Bureau of Indian Standards norms in regard to earthquake resistant technologies. It is therefore difficult to give a categorical answer.

(c) The provisions of National Building Code being advisory and recommendatory in nature, and housing being a State subject, it would not be possible for the Central Government to enforce them compulsorily. However the Central Government has already requested all the State Governments to make suitable amendments in their building bye laws to incorporate earthquake resistant technologies and structural safety aspects so as to ensure that all buildings which are constructed in future, are constructed as per these norms and the already existing buildings get retrofitted/strengthened. The matter is being followed up vigorously with the State Governments.

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*334. MISS MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have done any valuation of Air India and Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, its methodology and the rationale to arrive at the stipulated valuation figure;

(c) if no valuation has been done so far, whether Government propose to finalise disinvestment of the above two national carriers;

(d) if so, at what face value and the minimum price acceptable to Government; and

(e) why should not Government submit the disinvestment proposal of the above two national carriers to the Select Committee of Parliament for scrutiny for the sake of transparency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Not as yet, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The process is in initial stages. The Government does not